

PALMERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Palmerton, PA

Saturday, December 6, 2025

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

An executive session was held today, December 6, 2025, before this meeting for legal and personnel matters.

The regular board meeting of the Palmerton Area School District Board of School Directors was held in the High School Library, 3525 Fireline Road, Palmerton, PA, on Saturday, December 6, 2025, and called to order at 10:52 a.m. President Haas presided. The meeting was viewable via livestream.

ROLL CALL

Present: Directors Connell, Gursky, Haas, King, Krawchuk-Boschen, Mazepa, Danielle Paules, Earl Paules, and Snyder

OTHER ATTENDANCE

Angela Friebolin – Superintendent, Ryan Kish – Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities, Daniel Heaney – Assistant Superintendent for Academic Programs and Technology, Jacqueline McCandless – Board Secretary, and Sharon Montayne – Solicitor

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- JHS Stem Club proposed by Mr. David Sodl, JH Principal – wishes to create club at the JH level to be able to participate in various student competitions

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- Constance Banko – thanked Directors Mazepa, Danielle Paules, and Haas for their comments about contracts voted on at the last meeting
- Richard Banko – asked about the issue with the water line at the high school

CONSENT AGENDA

Director Krawchuk-Boschen moved, seconded by Director King, to approve the consent agenda.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Authorized the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Facilities to make and release payments for the remaining December accounts payable

UGI ENERGY SERVICES

Approved retroactively the natural gas agreement/rate with UGI Energy Services for a 12-month period starting January 2026 through December 2026 at a rate of \$4.43/DTH. The expiring rate was \$3.20/DTH.

UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE

Approved retroactively the following uncompensated leave requests:

Employee #314	Additionally effective from December 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025
Employee #669	Effective from November 13, 2025 (1/2 day) through December 15, 2025

CLUB ADVISOR

Approved the following Club Advisor at the Junior High School effective December 7, 2025:

William Zeky	STEM-JHS	--
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COACHES

Approved the following Coaches for the 2025-2026 school year effective December 7, 2025:

Darris Rodrigues	Track Assistant Coach	\$2,826
Dillon Lombardi	Boys’ Wrestling Volunteer Assistant Coach	--

SUB REMOVAL

Removed the following from the Current Substitute list effective December 7, 2025:

Kaitlin Ribble	Substitute Instructional Assistant and Substitute Secretary
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RESIGNATION

Accepted the resignation of Christopher Curtis, Part-Time Custodian, effective November 24, 2025

FOX ROTHSCHILD ENGAGEMENT

Approved the engagement letter with Fox Rothschild, LLP, dated December 4, 2025 for specialized labor and employment services as it relates to contract negotiations

STEM CLUB-JHS FORMATION

Approved the formation of STEM Club-JHS as an extracurricular club at the Junior High School effective December 7, 2025

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Approved the following public performances, per policy 230:

Band-JHS	Easton Area MS, Easton	January 30, 2026
Chorus-JHS	Saucon Valley HS, Hellertown	March 9, 2026

ST. LUKE'S PHYSICIAN GROUP

Approved retroactively the agreement for medical professional services with St. Luke's Physician Group, Inc., from January 4, 2026 through June 30, 2028

KEYSTONE COLLEGE

Approved retroactively the affiliation agreement with Keystone College from December 3, 2025 through December 2, 2030

SOLIANT HEALTH

Approved retroactively the client services agreement with Soliant Health, LLC, from December 3, 2025 through June 30, 2027

Approved retroactively the client confirmation for substitute assignment details with Soliant Health, LLC, from January 22, 2026 through June 30, 2027

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

KCE-HS water line

Director Snyder moved, seconded by Director King, to authorize Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc. to proceed with the engineering design, permitting plans, and bid package in the estimated amount of \$72,000.00 for the high school water line replacement project.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

SPOTTS, STEVENS & MCCOY-soil sampling

Director King moved, seconded by Director Krawchuk-Boschen, to approve the proposal from Spotts, Stevens and McCoy in the estimated amount of \$9,700.00 to provide soil sampling services at the junior/senior high school complex.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

SPOTTS, STEVENS & MCCOY-asbestos abatement

Director Krawchuk-Boschen moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to approve the proposal from Spotts, Stevens and McCoy in the estimated amount of \$53,500.00 for asbestos investigation, bid documentation services, and asbestos abatement oversight services for the planned 2026-2027 asbestos abatement project at the high school.

Aye Votes: All Directors Present.
Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.

RESCIND SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT	<p>Director Danielle Paules moved, seconded by Director Earl Paules, to rescind the motion passed at the November 25, 2025 Palmerton Area School District school board meeting to accept the resignation of the Superintendent and appoint the Superintendent under a new contract.</p> <p>Aye Votes: Directors Gursky, Haas, Mazepa, Daniele Paules, and Earl Paules. Nay Votes: Directors Connell, King, Krawchuk-Boschen, and Snyder. Motion Carried.</p>
RESCIND ASST. SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT	<p>Director Earl Paules moved, seconded by Director Danielle Paules, to rescind the motion passed at the November 25, 2025 Palmerton Area School District school board meeting to accept the resignation of the Assistant Superintendent for Academic Programs and Technology and appoint the Assistant Superintendent for Academic Programs and Technology under a new contract.</p> <p>Aye Votes: Directors Gursky, Haas, Mazepa, Daniele Paules, and Earl Paules. Nay Votes: Directors Connell, King, Krawchuk-Boschen, and Snyder. Motion Carried.</p>
<p>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Banko – why hasn’t the past board president presided at recent meetings; security guard not needed at meetings; concerned about senior citizens and taxes; still pursuing amusement tax for township • Kenneth Sutton – district needs to be transparent; questioned staff and administration evaluations, probation periods, salaries, and positions; does not speak for his wife • Kimberly Wentz – spoke about release of cross country coaches • Allina Payonk – reconsider hiring cross country coaches • Gavin Wininger – unfair to not rehire cross country coaches; district not transparent • Nicole Wininger – concerned about losing cross country coaches all at one time, consider keeping them; wants sport to stay intact • Emma Rex – re-evaluate decision of not re-hiring cross country coaches • Devon White – cross country coaches are dedicated and transformed the team • Sean Jahelka – spoke in favor of the cross country coaches • Lori Nemeth – welcomed Director Gursky; work together as a Board • Ezra Green – supports cross country coaches to remain in their positions • Conner Hibell – head cross country coach is a positive role model 	
<p>FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Krawchuk-Boschen stated she will be a FBLA judge this Tuesday • Director King said she has been criticized, berated, and her integrity questioned regarding the role she had to take on presiding at meetings. She was put in the position because of the president’s actions, not because of anything she did. 	
ADJOURNMENT	<p>Director Krawchuk-Boschen moved, seconded by Director King, to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 a.m.</p> <p>Aye Votes: All Directors Present. Nay Votes: None. Motion Carried.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Jacqueline McCandless Board Secretary</p>